

characterized by the fact that the audio signal generator unit (9, 9a, 9b) has a user-changeable memory (20, 11a) and/or a read/write memory (9a) that can be written on by the user.

In another embodiment, the above system is characterized by the fact that the audio signal generator unit (9, 9a, 9b) has an addressing input (I) for the memory (20, 9a), which has a working connection with control signal-producing organs (7, 3) in the hearing aid.

In another embodiment, the system above is further characterized by the fact that the production unit includes manually activated switching organs (M) on the hearing aid and/or organs having a working connection to a remote-control input of the hearing aid and/or the signal-processing unit (3).

Still further, the systems above can be further characterized by the fact that the read/write memory is designed for user-defined storage of audio-signal sequences of a predetermined length or the fact that the write input of the read/write memory can or does have a working connection to or has a working connection to an audio signal source.

In addition, the system above can be characterized by the fact that the audio source I is an audio player or a unit with an Internet connection.

Any of the above systems can be further characterized by the fact that it includes a display unit for visual and/or voice-controlled menu control, which has or can have a working connection to the control-signal-producing organs of the hearing aid, on one hand, and to the audio-signal generator unit on the other.

The system above can be even further characterized by the fact that the display unit is designed for voice control by menus and has a working connection on the output side with the input of the electromechanical transducer of the hearing aid.

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 7-13 without prejudice, and please amend the following

claims:

1           3. (twice amended) The process of Claim 1, characterized by the fact that at  
2    least some of the time-limited audio signals (Q)  
3           - are stored on user-changeable memory elements (20) for the hearing  
4    aid, preferably read-only, and/or  
5           - are filed user-defined in a memory unit (9a, 11b), which is built into  
6    the hearing aid (9a) and has or can be brought into a working connection with  
7    it, and/or  
8           - user-defined location information in the hearing aid for the audio  
9    signals mentioned is filed on an audio signal carrier and the audio signals can  
10   be called up selectively from the carrier via that information.

11           4. (twice amended) The process of Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the  
12    electromechanical output transducer is a loudspeaker and at least some of the time-  
13    limited electric audio signals (Q) are produced so that the results of the conversion  
14    are audible by an individual at a distance.

15           5. (twice amended) The process of Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the  
16    user definition of the time-limited electric audio signals is menu-driven by a  
17    communications unit (15) that can be connected to the hearing aid by wireless  
18    connection.

Please add the following new claims:

1           14. (new) A method for establishing communication between a hearing  
2    device for listening to first audio signals and an individual carrying said device, said  
3    device having an electrical/mechanical output converter and an acoustical input, said  
4    output converter being driven with a first electrical signal dependent on acoustical  
5    signals impinging on said acoustical input, said method comprising the steps of:  
6           - applying to said output converter at least one second electrical signal  
7    representing at least one second audio signal of predetermined duration; and  
8           - said second audio signal being selectable by said individual.

1        15. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of generating  
2 said at least one second signal as an acknowledgment signal on at least one  
3 associated control signal generated for or in the hearing device.

1        16. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing said  
2 at least one second audio signal on a user exchangeable storage element.

1        17. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing said  
2 at least one second audio signal in a read-only-memory.

1        18. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing said  
2 at least one second audio signal in a storage unit in said hearing device.

1        19. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing said  
2 at least one second audio signal in a storage unit being operationally connected or  
3 being operationally connectable to said hearing device.

1        20. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing said  
2 at least one second audio signal in a storage unit and operationally connecting said  
3 storage unit and said hearing device by a wireless link.

1        21. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of providing  
2 said electro/mechanical output converter as a loudspeaker and generating said at  
3 least one second audio signal so that it is audible by an individual remote from said  
4 hearing device.

1        22. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of providing  
2 more than one second audio signal and selecting a second audio signal to be  
3 activated in a menu-controlled manner.

1        23. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of performing  
2 said selecting via a remote communication unit for said hearing device.

1        24. (new) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of establishing

2 a wireless communication between said communication unit and said hearing  
3 device.

1 25. (new) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of performing  
2 said selecting in speech controlled manner.

1 26. (new) A hearing device system with at least one hearing device, said  
2 device comprising a signal processing unit with an output being operationally  
3 connected to an input of an electrical/mechanical converter and a generator unit the  
4 output of which is also operationally connected to said input of said converter, said  
5 generator unit including a user exchangeable storage with at least one audio signal.

1 27. (new) A hearing device system comprising at least one hearing device,  
2 said hearing device including an electrical/mechanical converter and a signal  
3 processing unit with an output being operationally connected to an input of said  
4 electrical/mechanical converter, said system further comprising a generator unit the  
5 output of which is operationally connected to the input of said electrical/ mechanical  
6 converter, said generator unit including a user writable read/write storage unit with  
7 signals representing audio signals and for storing signals according to user defined  
8 audio signal sequences of predetermined extent.

1 28. (new) The system of claim 26 or 27, wherein said generator unit further  
2 includes an addressing input for said storage, said addressing input being  
3 operationally connected to a control signal generator generating control signals for  
4 said hearing device.

1 29. (new) The system of claim 28, wherein said control signal generator  
2 includes manually operated switching members at said hearing device.

1 30. (new) The system of claim 28, wherein said control signal generator  
2 includes a remote control unit for said hearing device.

1 31. (new) The system of claim 28, wherein said control signal generator is  
2 integrated in said hearing device.

1        32. (new) The system of claim 27, wherein a writing input of said read/write  
2 storage is operationally connected or is operationally connectable to a signal source  
3 of audio signals.

1        33. (new) The system of claim 32, wherein said signal source is an audio  
2 playback unit or is a unit with internet connection.

1        34. (new) The system of claim 26 or 27, further comprising a display unit for  
2 at least one of a visual or speech controlled menu, said display unit being  
3 operationally connected or connectable to a signal generator generating control  
4 signals for said device to said generator unit.

1        35. (new) The system of claim 34, said display unit for speech control and  
2 having an output which is operationally connected to said input of said  
3 electrical/mechanical converter of said hearing device.

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